

E 458

.5

.N 53

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 028 375 3



Hollinger  
pH 8.5  
Mill Run F3-1955

E 458  
.5  
.N53  
Copy 1

*Corin Blodgett*  
*from C. C. Blodgett*  
Washington's Birthday.

CELEBRATION

OF THE

BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON,

AND OF THE

VICTORIES OF THE UNION ARMS:

BY THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE LXXXNINTH LEGISLATURE  
OF NEW JERSEY, FEBRUARY 22d, 1865.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED BY J. R. FREESE, "STATE GAZETTE" OFFICE.

1865.





Washington's Birthday.

---

CELEBRATION

OF THE

BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON,

AND OF THE

VICTORIES OF THE UNION ARMS:

BY THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE LXXXIXTH LEGISLATURE  
OF NEW JERSEY, FEBRUARY 22d, 1865.

*New Jersey Legislature 1865 General Assembly*

---

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

---

TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED BY J. R. FREESE, "STATE GAZETTE" OFFICE.  
1865.

E 458  
5  
N 53

2-5-57 Nov. 12

---

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 23, 1865.

MR. BODINE offered the following :—

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of the meeting held in the Assembly Chamber on the evening of the 22d of February—the anniversary of the birth of GEORGE WASHINGTON—be printed, and that the gentlemen who delivered addresses on that occasion be requested to furnish copies thereof for publication, and that one thousand copies of said proceedings be printed for the use of the members of this House.

Which was adopted.

---





# WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

---

ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,  
FEBRUARY 22D, 1865.

---

Pursuant to resolutions offered in the House of Assembly by the Hon. P. C. Brinck, of Camden, and Hon. R. J. Harrison, of Essex, inviting Hon. Charles C. Lathrop, of Burlington, and Hon. Leon Abbott, of Hudson, to deliver addresses on the evening of the 22d of February, in the Assembly Room, in commemoration of the birth-day of the "Father of his Country" and of the recent victories of the Union armies, and inviting the Senators, Assemblymen, and Citizens of Trenton to be present; a large and very respectable audience assembled at the time and place.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor of the city of Trenton.

On motion of Hon. H. J. Irick, of Burlington, Hon. N. S. ABBOTT, of Gloucester, was called to the Chair.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Irick, FRANKLIN S. MILLS was appointed Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Taylor, of Monmouth, then presented the following letter from His Excellency, Governor PARKER, which was read by the Secretary:—

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, }  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
TRENTON, February 22d, 1865. }

*Hon. Joseph T. Crowell, Speaker of House of Assembly :—*

DEAR SIR:—I observe in the papers of this morning a resolution adopted yesterday by the House of Assembly, inviting me to preside at a meeting to be held at the State House this evening, to rejoice over the recent victories of our armies, and to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Father of his Country. Before I was aware of the passage of the resolution, I had made an engagement which requires my absence from Trenton, and therefore I am obliged to decline the invitation to preside.

The distinguished officer under whom the recent important military suc-

cesses have been achieved ranks among the foremost commanders the world has produced. His recent campaign, although comparatively bloodless, is pregnant with great results, if properly improved by the government. While we rejoice over the victories achieved by our brave officers and men, let us hope that our rulers may be so guided, that these victories may be made the means of restoring peace and the Union of the States without further bloodshed. The vast power of the nation stands forth to-day confessed by all, and this is the favorable moment to extend the olive branch. Let it be extended in a spirit of magnanimity. Whenever the insurgents offer to lay down their arms and return to the Union, let all their rights under the Constitution be conceded. Let the spirit of compromise that animated the Father of his Country be infused among our people in this hour of victory, and may we come out of this conflict with the vital principles of government, as established by Washington and his compeers, preserved in their integrity.

Let all the powers granted to the general government by the States be exercised to the fullest extent for the suppression of rebellion, the preservation of the Union, and the promotion of the happiness and prosperity of the people; but the right to local self-government and the regulation of domestic affairs should be retained by the States if we would transmit to posterity the best form of government ever devised by the wisdom of man. On this day, when the people convene to commemorate the patriotism and virtues of the great and good Washington, they should renew their vows to maintain the system of government which he, more than any other man, was instrumental in establishing.

Present my thanks to the General Assembly for the honor conferred by their invitation. I regret that I cannot listen to the speeches of the eloquent gentlemen selected to address you.

Very Respectfully, &c.,

JOEL PARKER.

The Chairman then introduced Hon. CHARLES C. LATHROP, of Burlington, who addressed the meeting as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

We meet to-night on a propitious occasion. We come together on one of the stand-point days of the American Republic. We enter to-day into a Banqueting House; and the banner waving over us is, *Love of Country*,—the feast spread before us is, *Patriotism*. We come this day to a perennial fountain, where the lover of the institutions of his country can refresh himself; where, in the weariness of the toil of maintaining those institutions against the efforts of traitors in arms, and the strife of sustaining the national life as against cravens and croakers, as well as the sympathizers with the South in our midst, may recuperate and obtain new strength to renew the conflict with the enemies of the Government bestowed upon us by the patriot, the sage, the christian, WASHINGTON,—the Father of his Country, *America*.

Yes, the twenty-second of February will glow with increasing brightness as the ages advance; will become more and more honored by the

descendants of the revolutionary fathers, as the institutions they staked their lives, their property, and their sacred honor to establish, shall develop their value, and become the more beloved because their sons and daughters in the present day were called upon to maintain and defend them against the parricidal hand of their own countrymen—aye, often their own kindred blood. Especially, as they realize (as is beginning now more clearly to be done,) that these institutions are pregnant with liberty to all the race, that they mean in deed and in *fact*, as well as in theory, that all men were created to be free and equal in political privileges, and were endowed with the inalienable rights of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The day, the natal day, of Washington will be held in sacred remembrance as the favored one that brought forth a man endowed by the Almighty with virtues, with graces, with wisdom and patriotism to accomplish the work of laying the foundation of a nation which was to exemplify and give scope to the elevating, the liberating, holy principles brought down to man through the Son of God. Never in the past has this day dawned with tokens of the brightness and the glory, with the gleams of liberty and progress as a nation, that ushered in this one. Though the darkness and clouds of war still linger on this morn, the piercing rays of the sunlight of deliverance and prosperity break through.

It would be the height of folly and presumption in me to attempt an eulogium on Washington, or to detain you to-night in rehearsing what is familiar to every school boy, and impressed on the mind of every school girl in the land. But we can improve the present occasion to draw useful lessons and derive strength and encouragement from his life and teachings. Let us, then, glance at some of the characteristics of Washington, and contemplate them.

First. *As a Truthful Person.* We are all familiar with the story of his childhood. When with his new hatchet he attacked a favorite fruit tree of his father's, and was inquired of as to the author of the mischief, he candidly confessed himself as the culprit, showing even in this trifling incident that the child was father to the man. So in all his after life, his word was never doubted. In the most trying hour of the history of his country, he was always the same reliable, candid, truthful man, legislator, general, and president. This was a power with him in business transactions, in the halls of legislation, in the field as commander, in the chair of State, his assertions, his promises, carried a weight with them that mightier intellects and more eloquent tongues used in vain. Of all the vices, lying is the *meanest*, the most undermining to character (as far as respect is concerned,) of them all. We can have some respect for the highway robber, the thief, and the assassin, as their acts imply boldness and courage: but for the liar, we have only contempt, and feel like kicking him out of our path. Of all mean liars, the lying, unreliable, two-faced politician is the meanest, and such men deserve to be made the conduit through which all the filth and the scum of the community (including the slops of the dram shop, bad whiskey, and lager beer,) should be poured—as they generally

are; for such men, to succeed in gaining position, only to disgrace and often betray their constituency. A man to be a politician, in the higher and *proper* sense of the word is to be an educator of the people in the noble science of Government, and to conserve and protect the interests of the community in all that pertains to their rights and their liberties. Such a man is to be honored and can be trusted. No money or place can bribe his vote, or his support to any measure that has for its object the overthrow of liberty, or that tramples on the rights of the poorest or the humblest of the community; much less will he sanction or avail himself of frauds upon the sacred franchise of the American citizen. It was by the grossest and most infamous lying on the part of Jefferson Davis, Slidell, Mason, Toombs, and other Southern politicians that the Southern States were plunged into secession, the people of those States overwhelmed with ruin, and our land stained with the blood of our fathers, brothers and sons, and it is by the most wicked, the most perverse, and the most inexcusable of all lying that they have perpetuated the strife, and that some of our politicians have been keeping up divisions at home, paralyzing, as far as they can do, the arm of the government in its efforts to put down treason and preserve the national life. Washington belonged to a different class than this. He was a true American politician: truthful, honest, reliable in politics as well as in business. The false and infamous maxim that "all is fair in politics," was spurned by him. No wonder that honest and truth-loving men have come to eschew politics, and that it has become almost a disgrace to be known as a politician—a name which, next to a Christian, *should be* the highest boast of an American citizen. It is by the throwing off of this responsibility by the better portion of the community that political affairs have come to be controlled by the less responsible and interested portion of the people—hence the disgrace, and also the cause of all our political woes. If every citizen had exercised the duty devolved upon him by our form of government, we would have had no rebellion. When Denades the orator addressed himself to the Athenians and said "I call all the Gods and Goddesses to witness the truth of what I shall say," the Athenians, often abused by his impudent lies, presently interrupted him by exclaiming "And we call the Gods and Goddesses to witness that we will not believe you." So might the people reply to the assertions of many of our politicians just before elections.

Second, *As obedient and reverential to parental authority and to old age*.—Left at the age of eleven years without a father, to the care of a mother with five small children, of which he was the eldest, Washington ever was a dutiful child, an obedient youth and loving son of the immortal Mary—who has come to live in history, through the obedience and virtues of her son, as the "*Mother of Washington*." She was rewarded for all her care and struggles in the discharge of her duties as a widow and a mother by living to see her honored son the head of a nation, and reaping the harvest for which every true mother struggles—of living and acting on the fields of the world through and in her sons. As a child and a youth Washington was noted for his



inquisitiveness, diligence, love of manly sports, which developed his physical powers, and for military tendencies—before he was thirteen years of age forming his school companions into companies, of which he was always the acknowledged head. His conduct even at that early age was characterized by dignity, decorum, consistency, condescension and mildness, which it would be well for the boys and young men of our day to copy. The present age is lamentably deficient in parental respect and obedience to the restraints of home, and most sadly lacking in reverence for age and authority. Young America “Can’t see the point,” and “Don’t believe in being tied to their mother’s apron strings,” but strut and swagger with the stump of a cigar or a foul pipe in their mouths about the street corners, the country store or the village tavern; and too often imbibing the poisonous draught, or the polluting talk of the frequenters of such places, thus breaking away from and despising all the teachings of that *holiest of sanctuaries—Home*. After acquiring the best education that the common school afforded, which was the only opportunity he had in his boyhood, in which he made such proficiency in writing (and so exact and neat that his manuscript school books are preserved from the age of thirteen) and in mathematics, in constructing forms for writing poetry, and forming rules of behaviour, which gave a cast to his whole life. At the age of fourteen he was commissioned a midshipman in the British service, and was earnestly desirous of gratifying his ambition in this sphere. But in obedience to the wishes of his mother he deferred the commencement of his military career, and thus under Providence, in obeying his mother, instead of becoming an officer in the British Navy, and perhaps lost to America, he subsequently became the leader of his countrymen against that power, and the Father of his Country.

Show me a young man dutiful and loving to his parents, reverential to their commands and wishes, diligent in the discharge of his home duties, and I will point you to the future Statesman, Patriot and Christian. Another lesson learned from this youthful example of Washington is that all young men are to be courteous, polite, gentlemanly. There is an absurd idea prevailing too much among boys, and even young men, that it is an indication of meanness and unmanliness to conduct themselves with gentleness and affability, and deference to age. Every American is a sovereign, and as such should ever be controlled by dignity and politeness, which are the opposite to pride and haughtiness. It is said of Washington that when President, he passed a poor negro man in the street and politely raised his hat and bowed in response to the obsequiousness of the negro, when one of his attendants said, “What! do you bow to a negro?” “Would you have me outdone by a negro in politeness?” replied Washington. The true American always recognizes an object worthy of respect in every honest man, however humble.

Third, *As Industrious and Diligent*.—In his early life Washington was left the estate on which his father, Augustine Washington, resided at the time of his death, situated in Stafford county, on the east side of the Rappahannock, opposite Fredericksburg, Va.—the very ground almost, where our soldiers in the present war have been encamped as

the headquarters of the army of the Potomac for so great a portion of the time. What a coincidence that the childhood home of Washington should thus be occupied!

Though left an independence, Washington did not avail himself of it to idle and dissipate away his time. And instead of going to Europe to obtain an education which gentlemen's sons in Colonial days were in the habit of doing—often, but to return with haughty mien and supercilious manners—he obtained his education upon American soil, as has been seen, in the common schools the country afforded, and in studious reading of works of art and literature, under the chastening influence of home, and a noble mother's guidance. His last two years at school he devoted mainly to those studies that qualified him for a surveyor, which, as the country then was almost a wilderness, afforded the best field for usefulness and profit. In his sixteenth year he spent the winter with his brother on his estate of Mount Vernon (named after Admiral Vernon, with whom his brother had sailed in the British service,) in surveying the extensive lands of Lord Fairfax, and pursuing his studies. His self-reliance and energy of character at that age is shown by his having on one occasion set off on an arduous and dangerous expedition of surveying the wild lands of the Alleghany Mountains, accompanied only by a son of Lord Fairfax, and successfully accomplished his enterprise after enduring great privations and fatigues. This so established his reputation that he received a commission as Public Surveyor, and followed that business faithfully for three years, until he was, at the age of nineteen, appointed one of the Adjutant Generals of Virginia, with the rank of Major. The death of his brother soon after devolved upon him the management of large estates, and gave him a contingent interest in Mount Vernon, to which, after his brilliant military career in the service of Virginia, and his marriage, he retired, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, for which he had great fondness, and which he conducted with such judgment, steadiness and industry as greatly to enlarge and improve his estate. In all his subsequent career, he always referred with great pleasure to the subject of agriculture—the noblest pursuit in which man can engage, and which it were well that more of our young men would give attention to, instead of rushing to cities, with often no higher ambition than to measure tape, jump the counter, play the foxy, and, as is too often the case, become the frequenters of the play-house and the gambling hell, or loungers about the parlours of vice, until they graduate genteel exquisites, finished snobs, or effeminate coxcombs, without character or manhood.

Industry enobles—idleness vitiates. Communion with nature—bringing forth the fruits and flowers of the earth purifies and softens the heart, enlarges benevolent instincts, and makes the honest man “the noblest work of God.” Every young man, like Washington, and young woman too, should cultivate industrious habits, and *make labor honorable* and the *rule* instead of the exception in the community. This is what has made the difference between the North and the South. In one section labor, virtue, intelligence, *liberty*, abounds. In the other, idleness, vicious habits, ignorance, *slavery*, has existed. In one, as a coun-

sequence, *loyalty*, love of country, prevails. In the other, *treason*, and bitter hatreds. In one Law rules—in the other, Passion. The cause of all this difference is that in one section labor, and as its handmaid, economy, is honorable—in the other it is degrading, and as its adjunct, waste and profligacy. In the language of another: “All the great minds who have left their marks upon the history of the world’s progress, have paid for their success and notoriety by the price of unremitting toil and labor. Napoleon Bonaparte worked hard and incessantly, and has been known to exhaust the energies of several secretaries at one time. Charles XII of Sweden frequently tired out all his officers. The Duke of Wellington was the hardest working man in the Peninsula: his energies never flagged. Milton, from his youth, applied himself with such indefatigable application to the study of letters that it occasioned weakness of sight and ultimate blindness. The labor of Sir Walter Scott is evident in the number of his literary productions, and it is apparent to every reader that the immense masses of general information which abound throughout his multitudinous works can only have been acquired by dint of many years’ hard study. Byron was in the habit of reading even at his meals. Luther made it a rule to translate a verse of the bible every day. This soon brought him to the completion of his labors, and it was a matter of astonishment to Europe, that in the multiplicity of his other labors, besides traveling, he could find the time to prepare such a surprising work. Newton and Locke pursued their studies with tireless efforts, and Pope sought retirement so that he might pursue his literary operations without interruption and distraction. Industry is essential to all: by forming habits of doing something useful every day, a man increases his own amount of happiness and enlarges that of others about him. Many a one by a judicious use of the odd moments, those little vacancies in every day life which occur to all, have rendered themselves famous among their fellows.—Nature is preserved in its proper working condition by constant exertion, and man, to keep in a healthful condition of mind and body, must exert his mental and physical faculties: the constant employment of the first will give the strength of character, so that it is capable of thinking on any subject at any time, and by active bodily exertion he preserves his health, fortune, and worldly position. The Marquis of Spinola once asked Sir Horace Vere “of what his brother died.” “He died, sir,” replied Sir Horace, “of having nothing to do.” “Alas, sir,” said Spinola, “that is enough to kill any general of us all.” And Rochefoucauld says: “It is deceiving one’s self to believe that it is only violent passions like those of love and ambition, which are able to triumph over others. Slothfulness, as languishing as it is, permits none to be its mistress: it usurps all the designs and all the actions of life; it destroys and consumes insensibly the passions and the virtues.”

Fourth. *As a Domestic man, or lover of his Home and his Family.*—We have seen how Washington loved and revered his mother. His tenderness toward her and the respect paid her, even after he became the great man of the nation, was so marked as to be almost child-like. In early life, too, he showed great susceptibility toward the other sex.

Just after Washington had arrived of age, being commissioned as the commander-in-chief of the forces of Virginia, he had occasion to visit Boston, on business with General Shirley, the British commander-in-chief in America. While in New York he was entertained at the house of Beverly Robinson, where he met with a sister of Mrs. Robinson, Miss Mary Phillips, a young lady of rare accomplishments, whose charms made a deep impression on the heart of the Virginia Colonel. He resolved to pay her his addresses, imparting the secret of his feelings to an intimate friend, who kept him informed of the state of affairs.—He was notified that a rival had appeared in the field, in the person of a Captain Morris, a former associate of his in Braddock's campaign, and advised to renew his visits. But she married Capt. Morris, and thus, instead of becoming the wife of a Washington, and united in name and immortality with the founder of a nation, she has passed away as but the wife of a British officer. How strange are the secret influences that shape our destiny? This first known love of Washington, did not seem to have a very fatal effect on his affections—as, within two years after, while on an expedition which demanded despatch, he stopped with his servant at a certain house for refreshments, leaving his horse with his servant, charging him to retain his post as he would soon return.—But the hours came and passed and no note was taken of time, until far into the night, before the young officer emerged from the house into which he had entered to tarry but for a few moments. He found there, and became charmed by a young and beautiful widow—Mrs. Martha Custis, and within a year he married her, and received with her (what would probably make most any young widow look beautiful) more than a hundred thousand dollars. With such an accession to his sources of happiness, he retired from military life, to the delightful retreat of Mount Vernon, three months after his marriage, and gave himself up to domestic pursuits. This union was in every respect felicitous, and continued forty years—showing that first love is not always the *only* happy one. On his appointment as commander-in-chief of the forces of the Colonies by the Continental Congress, of which he was a member, then sitting in Philadelphia, he wrote his wife as follows:—

“MY DEAREST: I am now set down to write to you on a subject which fills me with inexpressible concern, and this concern is greatly aggravated and increased, when I reflect upon the uneasiness I know it will give you. It has been determined in Congress that the whole army raised for the defence of the American cause, shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the command of it.

“You may believe me, when I assure you in the most solemn manner that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from the consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But it has been a kind of destiny that has thrown me upon this service. I shall hope that my undertaking is designed to answer some good purpose. You might, and I



suppose did perceive, from the tenor of my letters, that I was apprehensive I could not avoid this appointment, without exposing my character to such censures as would have reflected dishonor upon myself, and given pain to my friends. This I am sure could not and ought not to be pleasing to you, and must have lessened me considerably in my own esteem. I shall rely, therefore, confidently on that Providence which has heretofore preserved and been bountiful to me."

Mrs. Washington made it a rule always to spend the winters in camp with her husband during his campaign of the Revolution, and shed a cheerful and refining influence over the life of her husband and his military family. Such are the revelations of the affectionate feelings, and tender emotions as a husband, of our model man.

Every young man, as soon as circumstances will justify him, should secure the support, refining and elevating influences, the quicker and clearer perceptions as counsellor, of woman, by making the object of his affections his wife. And every young woman should by her virtues, cultivation of economical habits, and acquirement of such a domestic and intellectual education and application to household duties, as will fit and adapt her to make a good wife, and render her home the holiest and happiest place on earth to her husband. Extravagance, fashionable display, a superficial education, despising domestic duties and labors, have wrecked many a man, deterred hundreds from marrying, left desolate many a heart, and in singleness thousands of females, who by cultivating the habits designed by Providence to render woman a help-met, as well as secure her happiness, would have adorned her life, blessed the heart and rescued the life of some young man from dissipation and vice.—The systems of female education of the present day are mainly illy adapted to this. They are thoroughly at war with nature and truth—and the wonder is that those educated at fashionable boarding schools escape as well as some do the contaminating influences of such teaching. True education does not consist wholly in intellectual advancement.—The heart needs a guide and directing power as well as the head, and the great defect in the system alluded to is that the former is for the most part wholly neglected, the fashionable graces of life are cultivated with the utmost care, whilst the heart lies fallow, so that weeds rank and foul possess it merely. "God help the fireside which is presided over by one of these forced growths of a fashionable education, for the household deities which surround the hearth of the good man with joy, fly at her approach and will have no communion with her. The young woman who spends the morning of her life in trifling follies, will have a weary noon and a night of self-reproach and merited contempt. The young man in search of domestic happiness will beware how he trusts his hopes to one of these things of muslin, whalebone and rouge. *She* is in search of an establishment, not of a *heart*." To the young Ladies I would give the advice of Themistocles, in reply to an Athenian who was hesitating whether to give his daughter in marriage to a man of worth with a small fortune, or to a rich man, who had no other recommendation: "I would bestow my daughter," said Themistocles, "upon a man without money, rather than upon money without a man."

The love of home, of wife and children, is the best promoter of love of country, and such as feel this are, as was Washington, generally found the most true to their government and flag, and the most ready to fly to their defence. It is to the true-hearted, noble mothers, wives and sisters of our land that we are mainly indebted for the loyalty, the patriotism, and the heroic valor of our fathers, brothers and sons, on the many stained battle-fields of the Republic, in this war with traitors to their flag and country.

Fifth, *As a Legislator and Statesman*.—At the age of 27, Washington was elected to the House of Burgesses, or Legislature of Virginia, and he served in that capacity constantly for fifteen years—to the beginning of the Revolution—being returned by a majority of votes at each election, first from the county of Frederick and afterwards from the county of Fairfax. There were commonly two sessions, and sometimes three, in a year. He gave his attendance regularly and punctually from the beginning to the end of almost every session. His influence was remarkable in public bodies, caused by the soundness of his judgment, quickness of perception, and his directness and sincerity, rather than by eloquence or art. He seldom spoke, never harrangued, and it is not known that he ever made a set speech. His practice may be inferred by the following counsel given by him in a letter to a nephew, who had been chosen to a seat in the assembly. He says:—“The only advice I will offer, if you have a mind to command the attention of the house, is to speak seldom, but on important subjects, except such as properly relate to your constituency, and in the former case make yourself perfectly master of the subject. Never exceed a decent warmth and submit your sentiments with diffidence. A dictatorial style, though it may carry conviction, is always accompanied with disgust.” Though he did not expend his efforts in speeches, he was always attentive and ready to act with decision and firmness. He took decided ground in opposition to all the acts of Great Britain oppressing the Colonies, and sustained resolutions of sympathy and co-operation with the northern Colonies in their acts of resistance, and thus took the first steps toward *Union*. When the news was received by the Virginia Assembly, of the act of the British Parliament, shutting up the Port of Boston, it passed an order setting apart a day of fasting and prayer for the Colonies, and when Lord Dunmore, because of its course, dissolved the Assembly, Washington, with others assembled and formed an Association for promotion of Union, and advised Committees of Correspondence with the other Colonies. He with twenty-four other delegates, issued a circular letter to the people of Virginia, calling Conventions for more full and deliberate discussions, which were held in several counties. In Fairfax county, Washington presided as Chairman, and the resolutions then passed presented a luminous view of the points at issue with Great Britain and show the opinions of Washington at this critical juncture of American affairs. Washington used no doubtful or double meaning phrases, which were susceptible of being construed in favor of either side. He was no Union man and tory at the same time, nor was he ever claimed by

both sides. In a letter about this time, he says:—"The crisis has arrived when we must assert our rights or submit to every imposition that can be heaped upon us, till custom and use shall make us abject slaves." Washington was appointed a Delegate to the first Continental Congress, and Patrick Henry (who was also one of the Delegates) on returning home and being asked whom he thought the greatest man in Congress, replied:—"If you speak of eloquence, Mr. Rutledge, of South Carolina, is by far the greatest orator, but if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor." As a member of the second Virginia Convention, held after the adjournment of the Continental Congress, he reported a plan of defence—was also on a committee to devise a plan to encourage domestic arts and manufacturers, and himself used home manufactures in preference to any others. Again a member of the second Continental Congress, his influence was universally acknowledged and he acted as chairman of the most important committees.

After the war, he was a member of and presided over the National Convention which adopted the Constitution of the United States. When about signing that document, he arose and paused a while, before doing so, as if in awe and reverence, and with prophetic eye looking into futurity said:—"When this is disregarded the next one will be drawn in blood." Do we not, by the breaking of the sacred obligations of the Constitution by the South and the amendments made to it by the act of Congress being ratified by the States, in order to rid us of the cause of the shedding of so much blood in this war, witness at this hour a fulfillment of this prophecy?

To be a Legislator, is to occupy a *high and honorable position*, but alas, how has it become degraded at the present day by the character and the conduct of the men often elected to fill the halls of our Legislatures, and of Congress—the fault of the people in not interposing their power at the primary meetings for nomination of candidates. To a man who will with diligence, decision and integrity, discharge the onerous and important duties devolved upon a Legislator, there is due a high meed of praise. But for him who secures such an exalted post by trickery, cunning or fraud, or who uses it to further merely the ends of party or of self, or to aid and comfort the enemies of his government, or who is turned aside from the maintenance of the welfare and prosperity of the people, by bribes or appliances, or who brings disrepute upon the station he occupies, by intemperance, immoralities and profanity—no censures of the public or of the press should be spared to drive such a person not only into retirement, but public disgrace, where he will forever remain, "unwept, unhonored and unsung." The Legislator who makes laws under the spiritual influence of the dram shops, and the power of partizan feeling, degrades the name of an American Statesman, and is unworthy to be delegated with power by a free people.

Sixth, *As a Great Soldier and General*.—In this day of numerous Generals and aspirants for military fame, how bright and glorious does the military genius and acts of Washington soar above them all. Like

a Napoleon, he manifested his military tendency in his boyhood, and like him, commanded forces at a very early age in life, and also, like him believed in his "star" or destiny. His expedition through the wilderness to the Ohio River, by command of Lt. Gov. Dinwiddie, at the age of twenty-one, was undertaken *the very day on which he was commissioned*. And for sixty days he was exposed to hardships, fatigue and danger from the hostile Indians, instigated by the French, who claimed to hold possession of the country from Canada to Louisiana north and west of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. His campaigns as commander of the Virginia forces against the French and Indians the subsequent year. His conduct in the Braddock Expedition, and that against Fort Mifflin, exhibited his wisdom, foresight, *alacrity* and bravery, and established forever his abilities as a commander, which led to his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, (as we have seen), by the Continental Congress. This was done on the recommendation of the New England Delegation—headed by John Adams,—that section of the country, being then, as now, among the foremost in the ranks for the promotion of the nation. The appointment was made on the 15th of June, 1775. He was commissioned four days after, and in *two days*, was on his way from Philadelphia, to join the Continental Army at Cambridge, near Boston. From which time to the close of the long war of the Revolution—through all its toils, privations, gloom and trials, he was the same reliable, earnest, able, active General: ever moving with the same alacrity. It was by his promptness, and the boldness of his movements as Commander of the Continental Army, as well as his skill and tactics that caused the triumph of our cause in the Revolution. His fight with Howe, and crossing East River—his campaign in New Jersey—his crossing the Delaware amidst floating ice, the battle of Trenton in winter, his recrossing the river the same day with his prisoners of war—his outflanking the enemy and march upon New Brunswick—the battle of Princeton—illustrate his alacrity and consummate skill as a commander, and which is but a sample of his whole career as a General.

Seventh, *As a Patriot*.—At the present period of our history, Washington's example and teachings appeal to us with remarkable force.

God seems to have raised up certain men throughout the history of the world, whose acts and teachings made them as lights to all coming generations, as so many finger beards on the path of time, pointing the way to truth, to honor, to virtue, to piety and patriotism. Moses, Abraham, David, Paul, Luther, Cromwell, Washington, men of this class, with many others of ancient and modern times. Even in our own day, Jackson, Clay and Webster, partake of this character. Men that seemed to be inspired to utter words, to do deeds, that mould the destiny of ages, and become the talismen to millions, the lights flaming across the horizon of time to direct all who come after them in duty. In this aspect, Washington rises in imposing, in sublime grandeur as a beacon to cheer, to warm, to enlighten, to energize every lover of his country—to Americans to stand by their own, "their native land," in every trial, in all hours of darkness, and especially when wrestling with



the Demon, Treason. If any man is in doubt as to what he is to do, he has but to see what Washington did. He *always* stood by his country in every position he was placed—as private citizen, as Legislator, as Commander of armies, and as Chief-Magistrate. He was against everything and all persons—whether foreign foes, or far worse, domestic ones, who opposed the Government of his country. He acted boldly, with no honied words for those who, while enjoying the blessings of the country were in sympathy with her foes—he neither called them “my dear friends,” nor “our erring brethern.” I have not time here to quote his words or cite his acts—they are recorded in history—and read and cherished by every child born to the royal heritage of an American—unless he has his heart hardened and his mind perverted by parents who are incapable of appreciating that heritage.

When Washington entered New York to meet a foreign foe—Gen’l. Howe and his army—he found that city, as it is now, full of traitors, and it was by his instrumentality that they were arrested by scores and put out of the way of poisoning the public feeling. The ancestors of the sympathizers with traitors then, as now, cried out in similar strains as does ilk now,—“Constitution,” “Habeas Corpus,” “Tyranny,” “Right of Speech;” but Washington looked upon all traitors to their country alike; whether found in arms against it, or more cowardly and culpable—conspiring against its government at home—and treated the one to open and honorable warfare, and the other to prison and shame. He believed with the eccentric and celebrated Irishman, Sir Boyle Roche, when he said with characteristic Irishism, “Sir, I would give up half—nay the whole of the Constitution to preserve the remainder.”

If there was one sentiment that animated Washington more than any other politically, it was the *permanent Union* of these United States. It was for this he labored as a Man—that he strove for as a Statesman, that he fought for as a Warrior, and that he prayed for as a Christian. And oh, how solemnly impressive, how sublimely eloquent, ring back his words as coming up from the grave, as echoing from eternity, in this day of our national struggle. “The unity of government which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize.” “It is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness, that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it, accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as a palladium of your political safety and prosperity. Watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety, discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in *any event* be abandoned, and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.” “While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts

greater strength, greater resources, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations, and what is of inestimable value, they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments and intrigues would stimulate and embitter."

No wonder that under these prophetic and inspiring teachings, men will do, dare and die, and lovely women will stimulate, strengthen, and give up her relatives, for their country—to perpetuate its Union. No wonder we love and honor the brave soldier, who suffers, fights and falls for it: *God bless him*, and reward him as his country cannot do. And no wonder we loathe and spurn the cold, selfish, plotting traitor, who lives in our midst, not only breathing sentiments of disunion, but aiding by sympathy, by words, and legislative action, the bolder and braver traitor in arms for the dismemberment of the Union, the overthrow of liberty, and the perpetuation of slavery. May God have mercy on the wretches, and give them a better mind, for they will find no mercy from an outraged, indignant public sentiment, when the blood of our brothers and sons slain in this war perpetuated by them, cries for vengeance from the ground.

Eighth, *Washington as a Christian*.—It has been truly and beautifully said, "The goodness of Washington was his greatness, and his greatness consisted in his goodness." As in his political, so in his religious character, there was no ambiguity, no one could doubt what were his sentiments on the most vital of all questions. Though valiant in battle, he trusted not to his own arms; though prudent, he relied not on his own skill when perils gathered around him. He trusted not in the wisdom of Congress or the counsels of his advisers—in all he rested in humble trust upon the Supreme Being and ever sought strength, wisdom and blessings from Him. When a Colonel of Virginia troops he issued an order, expressing his displeasure at profaneness, and declaring that if his men did not leave it off they would be severely punished. He was not ashamed to come to the Lord's table, and to own Christ before the world. While the army was encamped at Morristown, New Jersey, though educated an Episcopalean, he exhibited his absence of bigotry by communing with the Presbyterian church there. While stationed at Valley Forge, Washington was frequently observed to visit a secluded grove. This excited the attention of a Mr. Potts, of the denomination of Friends, who watched his movements, and discovered him on his knees in prayer. Mr. Potts returned to his family, and being himself a Tory, said, "Our cause is lost—Washington is in prayer." Let us strive to be like Washington, in truthfulness, in filial obedience, industry, domestic habits, and as a Statesman, Warrior, Patriot, and Christian.

Mr. Chairman—We have met to-night to celebrate the triumph and progress of the principles as traced of Washington. Four years since a new and unknown flag was flaunted in the face of the nation. It

represented what claimed to be a Confederacy of States, who had rebelled against the Constitution formed by Washington and his associates. It was raised first over the city of Charleston, South Carolina, whose citizens insolently and haughtily repudiated the banner of the Union, and with contempt for its sacred character basely fired upon it as it waved over Fort Sumpter, and inaugurated one of the bloodiest civil wars the world has ever experienced. To-day we celebrate the restoration of that glorious flag—the emblem of Liberty—over that shattered and ragged Fortress, whose dilapidated condition fitly represents the position of the boasted Confederacy; and the hour is near at hand when it too will fall, and the Union once more be restored—a *Free*, a mighty Christian Republic, which will eventually cover the whole continent from the frozen North to the Isthmus of Darien.

## SPEECH OF HON. LEON ABBETT.

---

The Chairman then introduced Hon. LEON ABBETT, of Hudson, who addressed the meeting as follows :—

MR. CHAIRMAN :—

I shall not attempt any analysis of the life and character of Washington. The gentleman who has preceded me, has most ably and eloquently reviewed them both. I shall allude briefly to a few prominent traits in his character.

We meet this evening to do honor to his memory. To-day is the anniversary of his birth. A nation celebrates it. The stillness of this peaceful city has been broken by the thunders of artillery—a military honor to the General whose genius and patriotism guided the infant energies of our people to success and independence. Throughout the land, the people gather in masses to listen to the well known story of his deeds and virtues. A peaceful tribute to the Statesman who assisted to frame our glorious Constitution.

Trenton is classic ground. Here Washington in the darkest hour of our history executed one of those brilliant deeds which revived the drooping spirits of the nation. The battle ground is now covered with peaceful dwellings. No traces are left of the struggle. Nothing to tell of the victory : but we shall never forget it. We need no monument to mark the spot. The history of the Revolution is engravened on our hearts. Its most brilliant record we find in the history of our State.

Washington was a man of iron will. He did not desert his countrymen in the hour of peril. He fought for them, when failure involved death and ignominy. With all the consequences of treason before him, he never faltered in his holy duty. Bribes had no influence with him. Danger no peril that could appal. Through the long years of the revolution his name was the rallying cry of the nation. In despondency men looked to him for encouragement. In victory they hailed him as the saviour of his country. We call him the Father of his Country. No name can better express a nation's love and reverence. We are too apt in times of civil commotion to forget the sublime virtues embodied in human character and exemplified in human conduct. These anniver-



saries recall the labors of the founders of the Republic. Love of country is kindled anew by the associations of the hour. It should ever be a pleasure to contemplate the purest models of patriotism. We associate with the name of Washington all the virtues of a patriot. His name will always rally the nation.

Washington achieved our liberties by the sword. He preserved and secured them by a written Constitution. He was President of the Convention that framed it. Its adoption was the birth of a new nation. Under its beneficent provisions we have attained a proud and enviable position among the powers of the earth. We maintained this position until men disregarded its provisions and attempted to overthrow it by armed rebellion. Washington deemed the Union of the States, under the Constitution necessary to the preservation of the liberties of the people. I am impressed with the same convictions. The Union of the States is necessary to keep our people happy and prosperous. It is impossible to look at the desolation that now fills this land, and compare it with our prosperity five years ago, without sorrow of the deepest kind. This Union can only be preserved by strict obedience to the Constitution. We must respect its provisions in letter and spirit. The present civil war is the result of its infraction.

In this hour of the nations' sorrow and travail, let us avoid the excesses of party spirit. Washington warns us against it. He speaks to us from his silent resting place. While we are endeavoring by arms to compel obedience to the Constitution, let us not allow party spirit to influence us in any of our deliberations. Let us try to conquer rebellion—not to cultivate a feeling of hatred for those who have rebelled. Never since this rebellion commenced have I entertained for the people of the South, a spirit of hatred. I have felt that they must be compelled to submit to the authority of the Union. I have at the same time, remembered the struggles of the Revolution and our subsequent wars with foreign powers. Their blood has been mingled with our own in those struggles. Our independence was achieved by common valor and under one flag. The honor of the nation has been maintained, territory added, and its power and influence extended by the brave men of both sections battling together in one common cause. God grant the hour may soon come, when the desperate valor of the Southern soldiers may be turned from its assault upon our common government, and united with our own, be turned against a foreign foe. Sorrow, not hatred, is the feeling in my mind, when I review the incidents of this cruel civil strife. If the people of the South would bow to the supremacy of the laws, I would receive them willingly. I would not stop to exact conditions, except those found in that instrument which Washington helped to frame—the Constitution.

I would never yield until the authority of the Union is acknowledged. With Washington, I regard this as the great and important point to secure the prosperity of our people. When that hour comes, I am prepared for peace. We know the great sacrifices necessary to carry on this war, and the long years of struggle it has already required. I most earnestly pray for a speedy return of that peace, which, five years ago

it was our pride and honor to live under. I feel satisfied that the people of the North will not require more as a condition of peace, than is required by the Constitution. The South should not be asked to accept any other. My heart-felt desire is, to see all the people of this land living under that Constitution, and obeying the laws enacted under it. My desire—the desire of the nation is—peace and a restored Union. When we shall see this, all men will be satisfied.

Let us be ready to make every sacrifice necessary to preserve our country. Remember the hours of trial and the years of suffering and privation that Washington endured. We cannot read the history of that time without a thrill of emotion. We have not been called on, in our present strife, to endure the hardships of the Revolution. Be ready to count all things gained, if we can but save our country in this struggle, as Washington left it, and as it grew up under the beneficent influences of the Constitution. This is all the country wants. This is all it demands of its rulers.

I hail every report of victory. I feel that every triumph brings us nearer to that peace, which all so ardently desire. The passions of men and excess of party spirit may tend to prolong the war, but deep seated in the heart of every lover of his country, is nursed the hope of peace. I watch with intense interest the mighty gathering of forces for battle. The hour is approaching when this continent will be shaken by the struggle of contending armies. The shock will be terrible—but I feel that the God of Battles will fight with us in that great day. He will listen to the prayers of his people and preserve this nation.

I rest assured that when these mighty hosts shall meet, our brave army will shatter the power of the Confederacy. Victory will unite us all, once more, against our foreign foes. Brother shall no more war against brother.

The time is approaching when we shall need all our energies and resources for foreign wars. The storm clouds are rolling up, black and threatening over the bosom of the Atlantic. Monarchical institutions are encroaching upon us from the South. We need Union. Our strength will win against a world in arms, if we are united. Do not by any measure delay or retard the restoration of the Union. Cultivate kindly feelings towards the people of the South. It was the home and grave of our immortal Washington. Let our love for him cause us to think kindly of his kindred. We wish hereafter, not “a Union pinned together with bayonets,” but a Union of the hearts of the people. Let us fight against armed rebellion in the South and against that excess of party spirit in the North, of which Washington said, it would lead to our destruction. Let us subdue both—then when this war ceases, it ceases forever, and this country will be again happy and prosperous under one flag and one Constitution.

Hon. Mr. Culver, of Hudson, moved a vote of thanks to the speakers which was unanimously carried.

N. S. ABBOTT, Chairman.

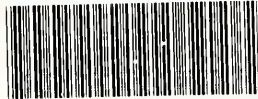
FRANKLIN S. MILLS, Secretary.







LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 028 375 3



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 028 375 3

Hollinger  
pH 8.5  
Mill Run F3-195

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 028 375 3



Hollinger  
pH 8.5  
Mill Run F3-1955